

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 (currently amended): A converter comprising:

an input stage receiving ECL signals,

a level shifter stage connected to the input stage which includes an NFET differential stage, and

an output stage connected to the level shifter stage converting ECL signals to CMOS
[[signal]]signals,

the input stage or the level shifter stage comprising a switching-threshold control system including a simulating network which determines a reference voltage for controlling a switching threshold of the switching-threshold control system.

5. (currently amended): A network element for transmitting signals which comprises a converter, said converter comprising:

an input stage receiving ECL signals,

a level shifter stage connected to the input stage which includes an NFET differential stage, and

an output stage connected to the level shifter stage converting said ECL signals to CMOS
[[signal]]signals,

the input stage or the level shifter stage comprising a switching-threshold control system including a simulating network which determines a reference voltage for controlling a switching threshold of the switching-threshold control system.

6. (previously presented): The converter of claim 1, wherein the switching threshold control system further includes current-source transistors and the reference voltage is applied to the current-source transistors to control the switching threshold.

7. (previously presented): The network element of claim 5, wherein the switching-threshold control system further includes current-source transistors and the reference voltage is applied to the current-source transistors to control the switching threshold.